

REMARKS

Office Action

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 13-16, 19-30 and 33-48 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 2, 12, 18 and 31 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Soejima (US Patent No. 6,114,864) in view of Leedy (US Patent No. 5,103,557).

Claims 5, 17 and 32 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Soejima (US Patent No. 6,114,864) in view of Leedy (US Patent No. 5,103,557) as applied to claims 2, 12 and 31, and further in view of Aindow (US Patent No. 6,094,988).

Claims 8-11 have been allowed.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 2 has been amended to state that each lead comprises "at least one projection and a conductive polymer outer layer on the at least one projection". Independent claim 2 is thus similar to allowed independent claim 8, and should be allowable for the same reasons. In addition, dependent claim 5, which depends on claim 2, should also be allowable. Further, rejoinder of dependent claims 3 and 4, which depend on claim 2, is requested.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to state that each lead comprises "a plurality of projections and a conductive polymer outer layer on the projections". Independent claim 12 is thus similar to allowed independent claim 8, and should be allowable for the same reasons. In addition, dependent claims 17 and 18, which depend on claim

12, should also be allowable. Further, rejoinder of dependent claims 13 and 16, which depend on claim 12, is requested.

Independent claim 31 has been amended to state "each lead comprising a projection and a conductive polymer outer layer on the projection". Independent claim 31 is thus similar to allowed independent claim 8, and should be allowable for the same reasons. In addition, dependent claim 32, which depend on claim 31, should also be allowable. Further, rejoinder of dependent claim 33, which depends on claim 12, is requested.

Withdrawn claims 1, 6-7, 19-30 and 34-48 have been canceled from the application, and are being filed in a separate divisional application. In addition, withdrawn claims 14-15 have been canceled due to the amendments to claim 12.

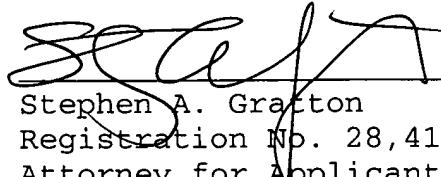
In addition to the claim amendments, the title has been amended to be more descriptive of the claimed subject matter.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments, favorable consideration and allowance of claims 2-5, 8-13, 16-18 and 31-33 is requested. Should any issues remain, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned by telephone.

DATED this 26th day of April, 2004.

Respectfully submitted:

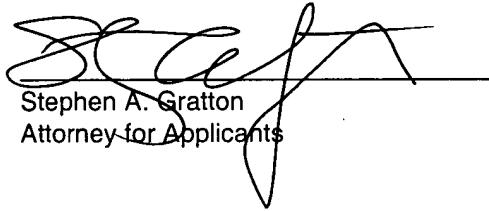

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